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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE



25X1

MHQ-5001
7 January 1985 Chief
Panama Bureau, FBIS

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Dear  Subject: Television Monitoring

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Some of our messages recently may not have made much sense to you, so I thought it was time to bring you up to date on some of our problems that affect the general area of television monitoring.

The stirring in the DI on the subject of TV monitoring reached a crescendo in December when five (count 'em) DI office directors sent me a memo requesting that FBIS establish live TV monitoring at Langley. After numerous meetings, we now have a task force developing a plan to set up dishes for live monitoring here, to be operated by FBIS and to be compatible with the INTERNET deliveries. This is one reason we are anxious to learn what is monitorable in the Western Hemisphere, particularly from Europe.

Secondly, with various budget hearings coming up I strongly suspect INTERNET will once again be under the gun. As you may know, Phase I of INTERNET, which is funded, will include Panama, London, and Headquarters (using Quantico). We need to have at least a tentative coverage schedule for Panama as soon as possible to help defend the system.

Thirdly, the Nicosia ROSET is on hold because Congress chopped \$6 million from our '85 budget (we took \$4 million from the original INTERNET program, and \$2 million from the Mideast ROSET). We are now almost ready to plunge into the Bangkok ROSET, which will be a sister ship of your ROSET. Thus, to keep ROSET on track, I want to be ready to give extensive time in the forthcoming briefings to what Panama can do and is doing. Incidentally, Harry's film is excellent in showing how impressive the Panama ROSET really is.

So that's why the pressure. Obviously it will take time to cruise everything out, but we need to do it sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,



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Director

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Chief

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DDS&T/FBIS,  (7 Jan 85)

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